

Sisk, Richard

From: Sisk, Richard
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 10:00 AM
To: Land, Kelcey; Madigan, Andrea; Works, John
Subject: FW: A twist

All - FYI

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From: Hestmark, Martin
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 8:05 AM
To: Sisk, Richard; Murray, Bill; Wharton, Steve; Schmittdiel, Paula
Cc: Fells, Sandy; Chergo, Jennifer; Stavnes, Sandra
Subject: FW: A twist

Richard/Bill/Steve – I wonder whether one (or all of) you might be available to join us to address the special account issue?

From: Chergo, Jennifer
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2013 2:37 PM
To: Schmittdiel, Paula; Hestmark, Martin
Cc: Murray, Bill; Wharton, Steve
Subject: A twist

I just received a call from Jen Clanahan. She works for Congresswoman DeGette. Ms. Clanahan was contacted by Montero's office about this meeting tomorrow and she plans on attending. Just as an aside, we have contacted DeGette's office about this project at least twice through Sandy Fells and had not heard anything back until today. Ms. Clanahan was very nice and wanted to get some background from me before tomorrow's meeting. However, she really just focused on one thing: she wanted to know why we can not set aside a special account dedicated to each property, kind of like a trust fund. This is an idea/suggestion that Councilwoman Montero brought up to us before. I told her that we are not set up to do that, particularly on a fund-lead site. I mentioned that we might have more flexibility if it were a special account, but it's not, and even then, I really couldn't say if it was possible. I did tell her that EPA committed in the recent meeting with DEH to working with the state and the city to explore means available to sample or cleanup a property if requested in the future— but could make no firm commitments to that end now. I share this with you to let you know that the Congresswoman will be represented at the meeting and also to forewarn that this will most likely be a major topic of conversation.

FYI,
-jc

Jennifer Chergo

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From: Schmittziel, Paula
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2013 2:14 PM
To: Hestmark, Martin
Cc: Murray, Bill; Wharton, Steve; Chergo, Jennifer
Subject: FW: Re: Montero's concerns

Martin – I think Jennifer has done a good summary of where Councilwoman Montero is coming from. Let us know if you would like more information before the meeting.

Thank you.

Paula Schmittziel
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From: Chergo, Jennifer
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2013 2:04 PM
To: Schmittziel, Paula
Subject: Re: Montero's concerns

I would say that overall Councilwoman Montero's concern is that these property owners are likely not responding to us for good reason. They may be elderly, disabled, have limited English speaking skills, have a fear of federal government, etc... She thinks that therefore we should take our time with them and use many unconventional avenues (going through city inspectors or social workers or others who may already have some avenue of communication with them) to attempt to gain access. She suggested treating each property as almost a type of case as you would in social work. To her it feels like we sort of popped up out of nowhere and suddenly want to impose these ICS and move on without giving these folks time to come around for whatever their reason.

I think there are a few things that we should emphasize that would make her feel more comfortable with this:

1. The majority of property owners that we are focused on are the same property owners during the earlier remedial action – in other words, they've been hearing from us (and from our community health workers and resident volunteers) now for more than 10 years. If they aren't on board by now, it's unlikely they will be.
2. Our deadline is not merely administrative – there is a very real risk that we will not have the funds to continue this into the future (she did not seem to buy the fact that we are funding and resource limited as the federal government).

3. IF someone comes forward and wants sampling and cleanup in the future, EPA will commit to exploring options at that time with the state and city . (She seemed to indicate that if we do have some administrative deadline we have to meet, then we should at least set up a fund attached to each property that could be used to for sampling or remediation in the future. This message will go a long way, as it did with DEH).
4. Once we implement these property notices, EPA can delete this site and go away. (She has stated that she's not so keen on federal government and is interested in EPA finishing up and going away...)
5. Finally, we should be very open to any suggestions she has for further outreach. I can volunteer to work with her assistant Nola, if that's helpful. We will just need to emphasize again that we do have time constraints.

Jennifer Chergo

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